

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1-2. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1-2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

### SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends the specification and replaces the Abstract; amends Claims 1-10; adds new Claims 11-13; and amends FIGS. 1-2. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. The specification is amended to add symbols found in FIG. 4. The abstract is amended by replacing "comprises" and "comprise" with --includes-- and --include--, respectively. Support for the limitation of independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 of fine flat particles "aligned parallel to the surface of the wire" is found in the specification at least at page 5, lines 33-34. Support for new Claims 11-12 is found at least in original Claim 10. Support for new Claim 13 is found at least in original Claim 1. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-13 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 9 are independent.

### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the November 22, 2004, personal interview. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication during a personal interview that the above amendments appear to overcome the prior art of record. Interview Summary dated November 22, 2004. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication during the personal interview that if the above amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance then, because Claim 3 was not addressed in the Office Action dated August 25, 2004, the next Office Action will be non-final. Interview Summary dated November 22, 2004.

As discussed at the personal interview, the present invention provides an enameled wire for use in, e.g., an electric motor. The enameled wire of the present invention exhibits improved breakdown characteristics because the wire includes a coating of a high molecular compound and an inorganic filler material in the form of fine flat particles aligned parallel to the surface of the wire and uniformly dispersed in the high molecular compound. FIGS. X and Y below demonstrate the improved resistance against surge voltage provided by the flat particles of the present invention in comparison with coatings containing conventional spherical particles. FIG. Z below is a cross-section of a coating with flat inorganic particles (1 nm thick, 50-100 nm width) dispersed in a polyvinylformal resin. FIG. Z shows that even with the addition of only 2.5 pbr, that added flat particles are highly dispersed in the resin.

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,740,396 ("Carrus") in view of Japanese Patent No. 10-237237 ("Inoue").

Carrus discloses a cable comprising at least one conductor and at least one coating layer based on a composite material comprising at least one polymer and at least one inorganic material with lamellar structure surface treated with a predetermined quantity of a compatibilizer. Carrus at Abstract.

However, the Office Action admits that Carrus "doesn't necessarily disclose the inorganic materials being flat particles (Claims 1, 7, 9, and 10), nor the particle size being 1 $\mu$ m or less (Claim 10)". Office Action at page 5, lines 13-14.

Inoue discloses a resin composition suitable for a coating layer of an electric wire or cable and containing magnesium hydroxide comprising flat particles in irregular shapes with a mean particle diameter of 2-6 $\mu$ m. Inoue at Abstract.

However, the cited prior art fails to suggest the limitation of independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 of a coating layer comprising a high molecular compound and an inorganic filler material in the form of flat particles "aligned parallel to the surface of the wire" and uniformly dispersed in the high molecular compound". Thus, the prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to. To obviate the objection, a replacement sheet with new FIGS. 1-2 is attached.

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to. To obviate the objection, a new Abstract without the term "comprises" is attached.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 40,211

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Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
CPU/rac